

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2000

The Honorable Trent Lott  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Trent:

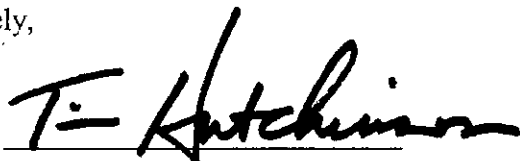
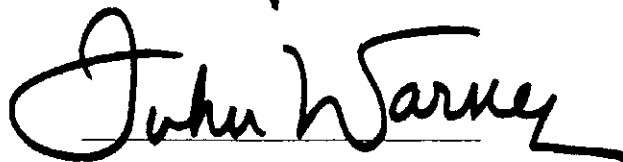
We write to request that the Just Opportunities in Bidding (JOB) Act, S.2986, or comparable language be included in any appropriate Conference Report or legislative vehicle which will ensure its enactment into law.

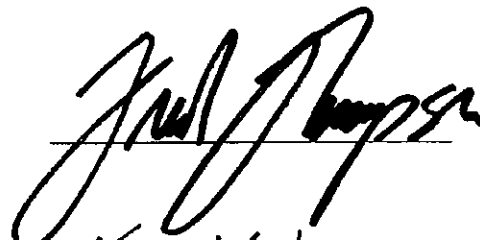

S. 2986 would delay the implementation of the Administration's proposed "blacklisting" regulations until the General Accounting Office has reviewed the proposal and reported to Congress on its necessity.

The Administration's proposed changes to existing procurement regulations represent an unprecedented change to how \$170 billion in annual federal contracts are awarded — making small and large businesses that have ever been cited for mere allegations or complaints by a federal agency ineligible for contracts awards. In fact, the General Services Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency filed comments in opposition to the proposed "blacklisting" regulations, stating that "the rule will have a negative impact on the ability of the government to do business with commercial firms," and, "the proposed rule is duplicative of the existing debarment remedy and less efficient in application." Shortly thereafter, the Administration prohibited any other agency from discussing the rule in any way, shape or form.

The federal procurement process must not be politicized. Rather, we should carefully analyze this proposal in a fair and rational manner. S. 2986 would do just that. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

September 28, 2000

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Jesse Helms

Jeff Bond

Rick Luger

Jack Hager

Al McConnell

Mike Delvin

Mike Cress

Chuck Grandey

Craig Thomas

Jim Bunning

Richard Shelby

Mike Thorton

Sam Brownback

Jeff Emerson

George V. Voinovich

John Chafee

Larry Daley Hutchins

Susan Collins

Wayne Allard

Curt Schick

Strom Thurmond

Bob Smith

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Chris Hatch

Bill Frist  
[Signature]

Phil Gramm

If any other legislative rider is attached to  
an appropriations conference report, S. 2986  
should be included also. ~~124~~